



Holladay Physical Medicine

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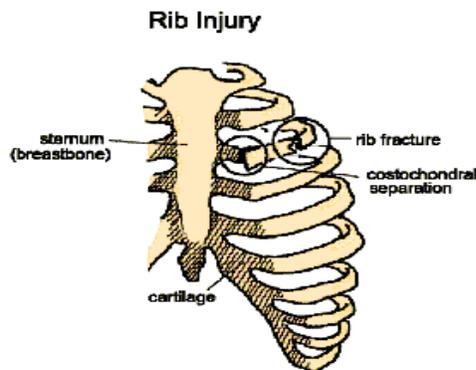
www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com

This Information is about this condition in general. Every individual has a unique presentation. Once you understand this information, consult the doctor on any specific questions about your condition.

Rib Injuries

(Costochondral separation, Rib fracture)

The 12 ribs on each side of your chest may be bruised, strained, broken, or separated. All of the ribs are attached to the vertebrae (backbone) in the rear. In the front, 10 of them are attached to the sternum (breastbone) by pieces of cartilage. Direct blows to the ribs may bruise or break the ribs or injure the rib cartilage. The ribs may tear away from the cartilage that attaches them to the breastbone. This tearing away from the cartilage is called a costochondral separation.



How does it occur?

Rib injuries usually result from a direct blow to the chest wall. Breaks usually occur in the curved portion of the outer part of the rib cage. A costochondral separation may occur from trauma, when you land hard on your feet, or even when you cough or sneeze violently.

What are the symptoms?

A rib injury causes pain and tenderness over the place of injury. You may have pain when you breathe, move, laugh, or cough.

How is it diagnosed?

The doctor will review your symptoms, examine your rib cage, and listen to your lungs. He or she may order a chest x-ray to look for rib damage, lung damage, or bleeding around the lungs.

How is it treated?

To help your injury heal, your provider may recommend that you:

- Rest.
- Put an ice pack over the injured rib for 20 to 30 minutes every 3 to 4 hours for 2 to 3 days or until the pain goes away.
- Ozone Injection
- E electrical stimulation.
- Ultra Sound, this increases circulation to the area and increases healing and also decreases pain.
- Wear a rib belt, which your health care provider may suggest for very painful injuries. The belt works as a girdle for your chest and helps support your ribs. It limits movement of your ribs when you cough, breathe, or move your body in other ways. This helps decrease pain. If you wear a rib belt, your provider will give you breathing exercises to help you avoid lung complications.

When can I return to my sport or activity?

The goal of rehabilitation is to return you to your sport or activity as soon as is safely possible. If you return too soon you may worsen your injury, which could lead to permanent damage. Everyone recovers from injury at a different rate. Return to your sport or activity will be determined by how soon your ribs recover, not by how many days or weeks it has been since your injury occurred. In general, the longer you have symptoms before you start treatment, the longer it will take to get better.

If you broke a rib, it may take 4 to 6 weeks to heal. Your health care provider may take an x-ray to see that the bone has healed before he or she allows you to return to your activity, especially if it is a contact sport. You may participate in noncontact activities sooner if you can do so without pain in your ribs and without pain when you breathe. If you have bruised your ribs or separated the cartilage from the ribs, you may return to your activity when you can do so without pain.

USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

We do not prescribe drugs nor recommend their use if harmful side-effects are associated with your complaints. We also do not, in any case, recommend changes in the use of prescription drugs that a licensed physician has given you. If you believe alterations in those prescriptions are in the best interest of your health, always consult with the prescribing physician before making any changes.

NUTRITION AND SUPPLEMENTATION:

The ideal situation for nutrition in any injury or disease is first to eat whole foods, and to avoid processed foods, fast foods preservatives, refined carbohydrates and sugar. We have much information on our web page under Absolute Health Clinic. The physical medicine modalities we will provide you

will help reduce the symptoms in the time we have projected. If you want to heal, this step is something you will need to take.

Nowadays, even if you do all of those things, you need to realize that our food supply has been gradually depleted. The pure ingredients needed to maintain body function, metabolism and immunity have been drastically reduced. We recommend only whole food supplements. Studies are clear that synthetic vitamins and mineral supplements are not only not helpful to the body in most cases, but can be toxic. Don't expect them to take the place of what we recommend here. They will not help you sufficiently to heal properly. The following list has been prioritized to help you gradually begin to supplement your improved diet and provide your body with the ingredients it needs to restore or improve your immune response and then provide the raw materials in usable form to repair the damaged or diseased tissue. The degree to which you can implement these items will largely determine how fast you recover and more importantly whether or not you have a recurrence or relapse of the symptoms again soon.

These products are all produced by Standard Process. You may obtain them on line from Amazon or other distributors if you like or we can order them for you and save you an average of \$5 per bottle plus you can avoid shipping charges.

GENERAL DAILY SUPPLEMENTS

- Catalyn
- Tuna Omega-3 oil
- Calcium Lactate
- Trace Minerals B12
- Cataplex D
- Prolamine Iodine

SPECIFIC FOR THIS CONDITION

- Biost
- Glucosamine Sulphate
- Ligaplex II
- Calcifood

Specific dosages will be provided by the doctor.

We have many other specific items for a variety of health deficient conditions. Consult our web page or ask the doctor.

HOME REMEDIES AND MEDICINES

After the first 1-3 days when you should be using 5-8 minutes of cold packs, utilize moist heat packs on a daily basis during the first phase of treatment. 15 minutes is the maximum therapeutic dose for heat in this condition. The application may be repeated with at least 15 minutes of non-heat rest in between. This will help relax tight muscle fibers and bring blood to the region. Hot tubs and baths with Epsom salts provide temporary relief.

The use of over-the-counter medications for pain and inflammation may be seen as necessary at first depending on your pain level and tolerance. Understand that we depend on your natural immune

response to function well in order to heal this disorder. Some pain relievers and most anti-inflammatory medications shut off the inflammatory response which is what triggers your body's immune response mechanisms. If you need pain medicines of any kind to continue to function or to be able to do the exercise routines we have recommended, use good judgement in when you use them. We strongly suggest you consider ice packs for 5-10 minutes for pain relief and mechanical positioning of the injured areas to relieve pressure and pain. The more you are able to do these procedures and avoid medications, the faster your immune response will be effective and the sooner you will be out of pain and begin healing. The sooner you can stop taking pain medication, the better it will be for your healing.

EXERCISES:

Exercises should be specific, performed at the right time and in a particular order. They should be simple and aimed at pain relief and stabilization at first. Seek advice from your chiropractic physician on when to do these exercises and how often. When performed correctly, rehabilitation exercises can be the key to avoiding multiple episodes of pain and maintaining the function of the muscles and joints.

Our goal here is to have you begin exercises as soon as the joint mobility has been restored sufficiently. Consistent and proper exercise rehabilitation will shorten your treatment time and help reduce recurrence of the same disorder.

We offer a video training featuring exercises specifically designed and proven effective if properly performed for the rehabilitation of this condition. These video files are available on our web page at www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com ---follow that link, then the exercise pulldown menu at the top center of the home page, choose therapeutic and then scroll down to:

Thoracic spine

then also and review

neck

and perform them daily as soon as you can work it into your schedule. Along with the physical medicine we have recommended, it is the regular performance of these exercises that will get you well and keep you well.

MAINTENANCE:

Regular spinal adjustments and mild forms of physical therapy are important to reduce the symptoms on a regular basis. Patients who receive monthly spinal manipulation and therapy report fewer complications and improved life style. It is important that you follow your chiropractic physician's advice about the frequency of treatment for your particular condition.

OTHER INFORMATION:

We offer a wide variety of health information at our web site. www.holladayphysicalmedicine.com
All patients are welcome to use our information to improve your life and maintain your spinal health.

This information is provided to you as a health service by Dr. Bruce Gundersen, DC, DIANM. He is board certified by the International Academy of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and currently serves as chairman of the examination board for the Academy. He is also the President of the Utah College of Chiropractic Orthopedists and clinical director and chief clinician at Holladay Physical Medicine. He has practiced physical and regenerative medicine for over 40 years.